Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, as amended, is the responsibility of the Central Authority constituted under Section 3 of the Act. Hon. Chief Justice of India is the Patron-in-Chief and Hon. Mr. Justice S.P. Bharucha, Judge, Supreme Court of India is the Executive Chairman of the Central Authority.

In January, 1999, issue of Nayaya Deep (which is official journal of NALSA), the Hon'ble Executive Chairman had desired that Legal Aid functionaries must make every effort to bring settlements through mediation and conciliation. In some of the States including Delhi, such Centres are already functioning.

The question of establishing counselling and conciliation Centres for guiding and motivating litigants to resolve their disputes amicably was considered as Item Number 7 at the Second Annual Meet of the State Legal Services Authorities held under the aegis of the National Legal Services Authorities at Hyderabad on 9.10.1999 where it was resolved that such Centres should be established in all districts in the States.

During the deliberations at the said Annual Meet, the Hon. Executive Chairman, NALSA had observed that this matter (establishing counselling and conciliation Centres) required further push up and in case the psychologists, doctors and housewives act as conciliators, the disputes could be settled amicably.

Law Schools in States

2090. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government propose to start law schools in various states on the lines of National Law School, Bangalore, to provide access to the high quality law education to Indian students;

(b) if so, the number of schools Government propose to start, which States have so far been identified for the purpose and what are the criteria for identification;

(c) whether it is a fact that Andhra Pradesh has requested the Central Government to start one in the State; and

(d) if so, what is status of the request?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) and (b) The Special Subject Group on the 'Administrative & Legal Simplifications' set up by the Prime Minister's Council on Trade and Industry has recommended setting up of three National Law Schools in the northern, western and southern regions of the country on the pattern of the National Law School, Bangalore. Regarding this recommendation, no final decision has been taken by the government as yet.

(c) No Sir,

(d) Does not arise.

Marriage and Divorce Laws

2091. SHRI JANESHWAR MISRA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Laws related to marriage and divorce are not in accordance with the present status of women; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to make these Laws relevant?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) and (b) There are different laws relating to marriage and divorce in India applicable to persons belonging to different religions. Some of them are codified and some of them are uncodified. The customary laws govern the scheduled tribes. The subject of Personal Law falls under the Concurrent List in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and therefore Parliament and the State Legislatures, subject to the provisions of clause (2) of article 254 of the Constitution, are competent to undertake necessary legislative measures in this regard. There are various State amendments to the Central Acts brought on different occasions as per the need of the social situation obtaining in such States. The social conditions, social culture and societal acceptance, requirements and acceptability of the society are certain